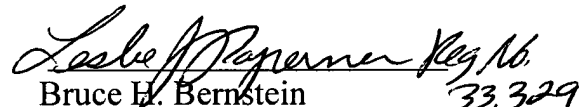


REMARKS

By the above amendment, claims 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9 have been amended and claims 10 – 16 have been added to delete multiple dependency.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Yoshifumi ABE et al.

  
Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

December 16, 2003  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191